CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1. A method of storing data objects in a data warehouse, comprising:

2   receiving a data object;

3   identifying a geographic location to which the data object is related;

4   associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;

5   identifying an industry to which the data object is related;

6   associating a numeric representation with the industry; and

7   indexing the data object in the data warehouse based on a header number, the

8   header number including the numeric representations of the geographic location and the

9   industry.

1   2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a geographic location comprises:

2   providing a location template having a plurality of columns, the columns

3   corresponding to nations, states, and cities.

1   3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   searching the data object for a term stored in a column of the location template,

3   the term representing a specific nation, state, or city.

1   4. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying an industry comprises:

2   providing an industry template having a plurality of columns, the columns

3   corresponding to industry names and industry functions.

1   5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2   searching the data object for a term stored in a column of the industry template,

3   the term representing a specific industry name or industry function.

1   6. The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric representations of the geographic location

2   and the industry are stored in specific slots in a register designated for the header number.

1   7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   providing location templates associated with different languages; and

3   providing industry templates associated with different languages.

1   8. The method of claim 1, wherein the header number further includes a unique

2   document number.

1   9. The method of claim 1, wherein the header number further includes a numeric

2   representation of a date on which the data object was received.

1   10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   storing the data object in a location of the data warehouse that is associated with

3   the header number.

1   11. A method of retrieving a data object stored in a data warehouse, comprising:

2   receiving a request for the data object that is stored in the data warehouse;

3   parsing the request to identify a geographic location to which the data object is

4   related;

5   associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;

6   parsing the request to identify an industry to which the data object is related;

7   associating a numeric representation with the industry;

8   generating a header number that includes the numeric representations of the

9   geographic location and the industry;

10   searching a header number index of the data warehouse for the header number;

11   identifying the data object based on the header number; and

12   retrieving the data object from the data warehouse.

1   12. The method of claim 11, wherein parsing the request to identify a geographic location

2   comprises:

3   providing a location template having a plurality of columns, the columns

4   corresponding to nations, states and cities; and

5   searching the request for a term stored in a column of the location template, the

6   term representing a specific nation, state or city.

1   13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   providing location templates associated with different languages; and

3   searching the request by utilizing a location template associated with a specific

4   language identified in the request.

1   14. The method of claim 11, wherein parsing the request to identify an industry

2   comprises:

3   providing an industry template having a plurality of columns, the columns

4   corresponding to industry names and industry functions; and

5   searching the request for a term stored in a column of the industry template, the

6   term representing a specific industry name or industry function.

1   15. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   providing industry templates associated with different languages; and

3   searching the request by utilizing an industry template associated with a specific

4   language identified in the request.

1   16. The method of claim 11, wherein parsing the request to identify a geographic location

2   or an industry to which the data object is related comprises:

3   searching the request for a first matching term in a first list of terms;

4   associating a first numeric representation with the first matching term; and

5   searching the request for a second matching term in a second list of terms,

6   wherein the searching for the second matching term is limited to a subset of terms, the

7   subset of the second list of terms being associated with the first matching term.

1   17. The method of claim 16, wherein the first list of terms comprises a column

2   corresponding to nations in a location template, and the second list of terms comprises a

3   column corresponding to cities in a location template.

1   18. The method of claim 16, wherein the first list of terms comprises a column

2   corresponding to industry names in an industry template, and the second list of terms

3   comprises a column corresponding to industry functions in an industry template.

1   19. The method of claim 11, wherein the header number further includes a unique

2   document number.

1   20. The method of claim 11, wherein the header number further includes a numeric

2   representation of a date on which the data object was received.

1   21. The method of claim 11, wherein retrieving the data object further comprises:

2   retrieving the data object from a location of the data warehouse that is associated

3   with the header number.

1   22. A computer system comprising:

2   a microprocessor;

3   a storage device coupled to the microprocessor, the storage device adapted to

4   store software routines; and

5   a software routine stored on the storage device to be executed by the

6   microprocessor, wherein the software routine comprises instructions to perform a method

7   of storing data objects in a data warehouse, said method comprising:

8   receiving a data object;

9   identifying a geographic location to which the data object is related;

10   associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;

11   identifying an industry to which the data object is related;

12   associating a numeric representation with the industry; and

13   indexing the data object in the data warehouse based on a header number,

14   the header number including the numeric representations of the geographic

15   location and the industry

1   23. A computer system comprising:

2   a microprocessor;

3   a storage device coupled to the microprocessor, the storage device adapted to

4   store software routines; and

5   a software routine stored on the storage device to be executed by the

6   microprocessor, wherein the software routine comprises instructions to perform a method

7   of retrieving a data object stored in a data warehouse, said method comprising:

8   receiving a request for the data object that is stored in the data warehouse;

9   parsing the request to identify a geographic location to which the data

10   object is related;

11   associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;

12   parsing the request to identify an industry to which the data object is

13   related;

14   associating a numeric representation with the industry;

15   generating a header number that includes the numeric representations of

16   the geographic location and the industry;

17   searching a header number index of the data warehouse for the header

18   number;

19   identifying the data object based on the header number; and

20   retrieving the data object from the data warehouse.

1   24. A storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of

2   instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of storing data objects in a

3   data warehouse, said method comprising:

4   receiving a data object;

5   identifying a geographic location to which the data object is related;

6   associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;

7   identifying an industry to which the data object is related;

8   associating a numeric representation with the industry; and

9   indexing the data object in the data warehouse based on a header number, the

10   header number including the numeric representations of the geographic location and the

11   industry.

1   25. A storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of

2   instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of retrieving a data object

3   stored in a data warehouse, said method comprising:

4   receiving a request for the data object that is stored in the data warehouse;

5   parsing the request to identify a geographic location to which the data object is

6   related;

7   associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;

8   parsing the request to identify an industry to which the data object is related;

9   associating a numeric representation with the industry;

10   generating a header number that includes the numeric representations of the

11   geographic location and the industry;

12   searching a header number index of the data warehouse for the header number;

13   identifying the data object based on the header number; and

14   retrieving the data object from the data warehouse.

1   26. A method of operating an electronic switch, comprising:

2   receiving a plurality of data objects;

3   storing the data objects in a plurality of data comparitors;

4   receiving a first signal indicating that all of the comparitors are busy;

5   receiving an additional data object;

6   providing a holding area for data objects;

7   storing the additional data object in the holding area;

8   receiving a second signal indicating that a comparitor is free; and

9   storing the additional data object in the comparitor.